



**Manistee County**  
community foundation

June 14, 2017

Office of Rep. Curt VanderWall  
S-1385 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Rep. VanderWall,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President & CEO of the Manistee County Community Foundation in Manistee. The mission of the Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for Manistee County residents – today and forever. As one of the crown jewels of Manistee County, sustaining the Ramsdell Theatre will help ensure a vibrant community.

The Ramsdell is owned by the City of Manistee and managed by the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts (RRCA), a nonprofit corporation and public charity. The city has expressed its expectation that the RRCA will be financially viable in the future, with a reduced subsidy from the city. One of the ways in which the RRCA Board can raise funds and increase cash flow for the theatre is through concessions that include alcoholic beverages. This opportunity would be greatly enhanced by a minor revision to Section 436.1509 of Michigan compiled laws, reducing the size of a city or township that qualifies for an unrestricted liquor license from 9,500 to 5,500. With this amendment, the city could apply to the liquor control commission for an unrestricted license.

I support this change and encourage you to do everything you can to get it through the legislative process. Our community will be the winner.

Sincerely,

Laura Heintzelman  
President & CEO